FILED

MAY 12 2015

N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

JUDY MUHLBAIER, L.P.N. License # 26NP 04614900 FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent is a licensed practical nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
- 2. Respondent indicated on her 2014 renewal application that she would not complete required continuing education for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle by May 31, 2014.
- 3. Respondent was asked by the Board's Executive Director in letters dated July 9, 2014 and September 18, 2014 to submit documentation of completion of all continuing education courses

required for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle and to provide payment of a civil penalty in the amount of \$250, in the form of a certified check or money order, for the failure to comply with N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3.

4. Respondent submitted payment of \$250 in satisfaction of the civil penalty, but she only provided documentation of completion of two contact hours of nursing continuing education, only one hour of which was completed during the June 1, 2012-May 31, 2014 licensing cycle; respondent did not provide documentation of thirty (30) contact hours of appropriately accredited continuing education as defined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent's failure to comply with N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3 subjects respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on February 27, 2015, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license, and memorializing payment of a \$250.00 civil penalty for failure to timely complete continuing education. A copy of the Order was served upon the respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following entry unless respondent

requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order, providing documentation of completion of thirty (30) contact hours of qualifying continuing education, all of which was completed in March of 2015. Therefore respondent has belatedly completed the thirty contact hours of continuing education required to satisfy her obligation for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle. Accordingly, suspension is no longer applicable, and this order shall serve to memorialize the \$250 civil penalty previously submitted by respondent.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 12th day of May, 2015, ORDERED that:

- 1. Payment of the civil penalty for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3 is hereby memorialized by this order. As respondent has admitted to the violation and satisfied the penalty, no further payment is required.
- 2. The thirty (30) contact hours of nursing continuing education completed on March 17, 2015, and attributed belatedly

to the continuing education obligation for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle, may not be applied to satisfy the continuing education obligation for the 2014-2016 licensing cycle.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Patrice Thursy PLD APA

By:

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN

Board President